



Bryce Grey, Sue Phinney, Bobby Phinney and Hugh Grey carefully excavate an area of soil at the Chestnut Street dig this week. Behind them stands the stone marker that was the only clue to the location of Duxbury's Second Meeting house until this project found evidence of a foundation.

Dig Turns Up History

Evidence of old meetinghouse found on Chestnut St.

By JUSTIN GRAEBER

The archeological dig at the site of Duxbury's second meetinghouse wrapped up this week — and the project has been surprisingly fruitful.

The project was organized by the Plymouth Archeology Rediscovery Project and its director, Craig Chartier. All the work at the

site was done by volunteers from the Duxbury community.

The project took place over the last two weeks. The site, located next to the Standish Cemetery on Chestnut Street, was believed to be the location of the town's second meetinghouse building.

continued on page 24

DUXBURY RURAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Chartier and the Duxbury Rural and Historical Society, who sponsored the dig, were hoping to find relics from the building including brick, glass and coins.

And find relics they did.

Chartier admitted he was worried the dig wouldn't turn up anything until the last couple of days of the two-week dig. Some preliminary ground penetrating radar showed the outlines of a foundation underneath the earth, but Chartier couldn't be sure. The volunteers started to dig test pits and immediately hit paydirt, finding brick, plaster, glass, nails, pieces of clay pipe and other artifacts from the meetinghouse. They found a curved piece of glass believed to be part of the pulpit window.

Chartier said the site was good for an excavation project, as there isn't much naturally occurring rock on the soil, so if the diggers found something there was a pretty good chance it had been put there by man.

"It's the ideal site to train people on," he said.

Most of the stone foundation had been hauled away after the meetinghouse was sold, but stains in the soil revealed where earth was once packed in around a stone foundation.

"All we're left with is the filled in holes," said Chartier.

The diggers also found several Native American spear tips dating back 3-4,000 years.



Craig Chartier of the Plymouth Archeology Rediscovery Project supervised the dig, which lasted two weeks and used volunteer labor from the community. All the findings will be discussed and displayed at the Duxbury Rural and Historical Society in November.

"We'll dig until the stones are gone," Chartier said on Monday as the dig was nearing a close.

Chartier said although they didn't find everything there is

to find at the second meetinghouse site, there isn't likely to be more excavation done on the lot.

"We had a bunch of research questions we started out with," he said. He wanted to establish that the town's second meetinghouse was there, a questions that seems to have been answered. He also said he hopes to have the site listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

All the findings belong to the Duxbury Rural and Historical Society, and will be displayed in an exhibit sometime in November.

For more photos of the dig, see page 20. For video showing the amateur archeologists in action, visit duxburyclipper.com.